REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are allowable. Restricted claims 5-9 have been rejoined and are amended herein to voluntarily correct certain instances of antecedent basis errors and to clarify the claimed invention. Claims 19-26 are canceled without prejudice herein.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of discussing the Office Action during a telephone interview with the undersigned agent on August 8, 2006.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitri (US 5,818,723) in view of Dang et al. (JP 8-255415A).

Claims 19 and 21-26 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, obviating the rejection of these claims. Applicant may pursue the subject matter of claims 19 and 21-26 in this or other related applications.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitri (US 5,818,723) in view of Dang et al. (JP 8-255415A) and further in view of Buckland et al. (US 5,940,355).

Claim 20 is canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, obviating the rejection of this claim. Applicant may pursue the subject matter of claim 20 in this or other related applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are held allowable. Restricted claims 5-9 have been rejoined and are amended herein to voluntarily correct certain instances of antecedent basis errors and clarify the claimed invention.
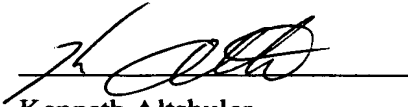
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Authorization To Charge Necessary Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional necessary fees associated with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/11/06

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